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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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DATE OF Apr. 6-12, 1953
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SUBJECT INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VULNERABILITIES

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SOURCE Monitored Broadcasts

CPW Report No. 69 -- COMMUNIST CHINA

(Apr. 6 - 12, 1953)

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1. (1a) SOVIET ECONOMIC PENETRATION: Peking announced in numeral code (Apr. 11) that "Chinese and Soviet technicians" from Alma Ata were making surveys for Sino-Soviet airlines service on the 1,000 mile route between Tihua and Kashgar. Sino-Soviet airlines freight rates were reduced 35 percent between Peking and Lanchow, 12 percent between Lanchow and Tihua, and 17.2 percent between Peking and Tihua.

Peking reported (Apr. 12) that more than a dozen prospecting teams were exploring for petroleum in the oil-producing areas of Sinkiang.

2. (1b) SINO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP: Wuhan announced (Apr. 6) that 150 Wuhan citizens laid wreaths at the tombs of Soviet fliers who died during the Japanese war in 1938. Mukden said (Apr. 11) that workers on a Port Arthur-Dairen Soviet memorial pledged to complete work by Sept. 3. Peking stated in numeral code (Apr. 12) that Kiev scientists sponsored a Sino-Soviet friendship exhibit.

3. (1c) SOVIET SUPERIORITY: Shanghai reported (Apr. 6) that 5,000 persons, some from Lanchow and Tihua, had registered for the Shanghai Radio's Russian-language course. Wuhan stated (Apr. 8) that Central-South cadres were politically more alert after completing study of Malenkov's 19th Congress report. Peking asserted in numeral code (Apr. 8) that Chinese and Russian scientists met in Moscow for joint discussion of the influence of Marxism-Leninism on Soviet science.

Antung stated (Apr. 7) that cadres at copper mine no. 3 were studying Soviet documents. Mukden reported (Apr. 11) that at ceremonies initiating work on numerous Northeast construction sites, officials urged workers to utilize Soviet methods. Peking (Apr. 8) quoted the KUNG JEN JIH PAO in calling upon workers to emulate the USSR to correct serious production irregularities.

Peking in numeral code (Apr. 7) asserted that "Ankang" workers completed installation of a ventilator 20 days ahead of schedule by following Soviet advice, and added (Apr. 9) that Taiyuan inspection teams saved money by "popularizing" Soviet methods. Shanghai stated (Apr. 9) that Shanghai steel mill no. 3 overfulfilled March quotas by adopting advanced Soviet experiences.

4. (2a) WAR BURDENS: Peking announced in numeral code (Apr. 6) that two more medical teams left Shanghai for Korea. Chungking reported (Apr. 8) that in the Lhasa area 1,000 women were transporting construction materials.

Peking in numeral code (Apr. 6) quoted Soviet sources on deteriorating economic conditions in the United States, entailing rising living costs and the suffering of the masses. Chungking stated (Apr. 6) that Southwest circles had received letters from Chinese People's Volunteers in Korea expressing determination to continue to resist America.

5. (2c) TRADE AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS: Peking in numeral code (Apr. 7) reported Soviet domestic and foreign trade was expanding. Chungking said (Apr. 12) that goods for through shipment were being handled by the Chichiang and Chengtu-Chungking railways, facilitating trade between Kweichow and Szechwan.

Peking (Apr. 8) quoted a JEN MIN JIH PAO editorial urging planned production programs in State enterprises to "overcome irregular production," which was becoming serious. Mukden announced (Apr. 5) that a Northeast meeting had been called to solve the vegetable shortage problem at construction sites, and reported (Apr. 8) drought conditions in Jehol, Liaosi, Sungchiang, and Heilungchiang.

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Chungking announced (Apr. 9) that a local plant would extract tannic acid and other chemicals from gall nuts, "thus eliminating the need to import." Chungking (Apr. 6) said that Szechwan cooperatives were ordered to buy native products from peasants to relieve suffering from famine.

6: (3a) BASIC CONSTRUCTION: Shanghai (Apr. 7) announced a series of broadcasts starting Apr. 8 "to enlighten East China on economic construction." Peking reported (Apr. 8) that a million workers had started labors on various Huai River Projects. Peking said in numeral code (Apr. 9) that 1,300 workers had been reassigned to work that was "suitable to their capabilities."

Peking in numeral code (Apr. 8), quoting the JEN MIN JIH PAO, said that Industry Ministry inspectors had found construction progressing "in a reckless manner," with strong sectional feeling among cadres; bad designing by incompetent personnel; alarming waste and lack of responsibility; confusion in estimating costs; and shoddy work. Steps were being taken to have work standards improved by August. Antung (Apr. 9) complained that food and supplies were not arriving at the Second Engineering Company's construction site no. 1. Hefei (Apr. 8) reported highway work postponed at Chuhsien, Anhwei, to promote spring farming.

Peking in numeral code (Apr. 6) included among National Census takers' instructions a stipulation that basic construction sites be considered as permanent residences of workers employed there.

7. (3a) BUREAUCRATIC WEAKNESSES: Peking asserted in numeral code (Apr. 7) that Kuanting Reservoir workers showed "greater zeal" following an antibureaucracy drive, and added (Apr. 8) that such a campaign led Shanghai cadres to pay more attention to "people's letters."

Peking announced in numeral code (Apr. 9) a reorganization of rural administrative offices in North China to reduce the excess of local offices and local meetings. The CHUNG KUO NIEN PAO charged the Youth Corps with officiousness, failure to "mix with the masses of young workers," and discouragement of workers' productive ability. Peking in numeral code (Apr. 9) quoted from a JEN MIN JIH PAO editorial blaming failure of the campaign against illiteracy on the overstressing of formalities and refusal to recognize such facts as economic conditions and teacher shortages.

Tsitsihar charged (Apr. 9) that the Kushan Hsien, Heilungchiang, schools became ineffective because of demands for extracurricular work, such as 15 days devoted to tree planting. Chungking reported (Apr. 8) that Southwest antibureaucracy drive cadres had been warned against interfering with production in mines and factories, and ordered to "exempt educational institutions." Peking admitted in numeral code (Apr. 11) that estimates of inexperienced Pinghsiang Mining Administration cadres had to be revised.

Sian (Apr. 8) charged Northwest cadres with bureaucracy, pointing to 38,000 farm tools and 871 tons of fertilizer still undistributed; expenditure of 50 billion yuan for (wells), many of which were unuseable; and improper instructions to farmers, causing excessive fertilizer application and burned out crops. State Farm managers let weeds grow in the fields while workers built halls.

8. (3a) THOUGHT REFORM: Peking announced in numeral code (Apr. 7) that 42,000 workers had started spending their spare time in political studies. Mukden reported (Apr. 11) that regular Workers' Schools had been placed under the Northeast College of Engineering, and a spare-time Marxism-Leninism School opened for workers.

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9. (3b) INDICATIONS OF RESISTANCE: Wuhan announced (Apr. 9) that Hupeh had issued an order suppressing the "reactionary religious sect," IKUANTAO. Tsitsihar (Apr. 6) reported a meeting to discuss the outbreak last month of 44 forest fires in Heilungchiang. Hofei stated (Apr. 6) that the Fuyang and Huichow Administrative Districts, Anhwei, had charged cadres with failure in the sanitation drive. Peking stated in numeral code (Apr. 9) that some peasants opposed the drive against illiteracy "because they thought the campaign was evil."

Peking in numeral code (Apr. 6) transmitted an Election Law directive pointing out that "one purpose of the Election Law was to clear out unpopular and irregular elements" from low-level government offices, and stressing that landlords, as well as families of counterrevolutionaries, were disfranchised.

Chungking (Apr. 6) quoted a Marriage Law Implementation Committee warning to cadres to use caution in selecting model cases of Marriage Law violations for public trial, and to distribute copies of the evidence to the masses. Hofei stated (Apr. 8) that "in order to avoid conflicts," famine relief, rural production, and Marriage Law implementation had been combined in the Anhwei Rural Production Office.

10. (3e) FARM DIFFICULTIES: Antung announced (Apr. 9) that Liaotung had limited the interest rate for private rural loans to 36 percent in order to "ban usury and develop the rural economy." Tsinan reported (Apr. 6) that steps were taken to prevent Chunan Hsien, Shantung, peasants from cutting their kaoliang acreage.

Sian announced (Apr. 7) that farm offices in five Northwestern provinces had requested immediate relief for calamity-stricken farmers. Sian said (Apr. 8) that loans of 200 million yuen were made for purchase of cotton seed in Shensi because of poor crops last year. Sian added (Apr. 11) that hundreds of Yenai area farmers had deserted their farms and gone to the cities, leaving the Yenai highway unfinished. Chungking charged (Apr. 8) that Tzuchung Hsien, Szechwan, peasants worked out plans just to please the cadres, but made no effort to implement these plans.

11. (4) BORDER MINORITIES: Chungking stated (Apr. 6) that in Kantse, Sikang, Tibetans, Government workers, and People's Liberation Army men all took part in the 10th athletic meet. Peking asserted in numeral code (Apr. 11) that 109 Tibetan cadres from Southwest colleges were teaching peasants to use farm tools in 12 hsien of the Tibetan Autonomous Area, Sikang.

Peking reported in numeral code (Apr. 7) that "to promote racial harmony," 136 minority representatives met in Anchow on Apr. 3, at which time officials assured them that the Government's policy was to develop the pastoral economy and guarantee freedom of religion. Officials promised to abandon plans for land reform in herding areas, redistribution of grasslands and animals, and implementation of rent reduction.

Mongolians "offered some grasslands" to 14 wandering Kazakh tribes, who earlier had fled from oppression in Sinkiang, had fought with neighboring tribes, and were "exploited by American and Chiang bandit agents." The Kazakhs now could settle down and organize an autonomous government. Peking said in numeral code (Apr. 8) that Tihua members of the Russian Orthodox Church observed Easter.

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SUMMARY

The campaign to deify Stalin and whip up emotional fervor over alleged Russian benevolence seems to have run its course. Stalin is mentioned seldom, and except for a new Port Arthur monument to the Russians and memorial services for seven Soviet fliers buried at Wuhan, Sino-Soviet friendship and China's debt to Russia are shunted aside. However, realistic evidence of Soviet influence is seen in the work of Russian advisers; oil prospecting in Sinkiang, where the Russians have special exploitation rights; and expansion of the Sino-Soviet Airlines, which perhaps might better be called the "Soviet Airline in China." This airline plans new flights from Tihua to Kashgar, near the Indian border, and heavy freight rate cuts inside China. Reported expansion of Russian trade contrasts with Chinese extraction of tannic acid from gall nuts to replace import losses.

Little is said of peace in Korea, though no new railway technicians for Korea are mentioned. Medical workers are still sent, letters from Chinese People's Volunteers suggest that the war will continue, and much is said of U.S. economic deterioration.

In general, Russification of China seems retarded. Basic construction lags, with shortages of food and supplies at construction sites, and little improvement promised before August. In the program to eliminate illiteracy, so that peasants can absorb Communist doctrine, failures are obvious, some peasants even calling the program "evil." Destruction of regular school programs through drives and campaigns is protested. Counterrevolutionaries continue to be a problem; an admitted aid of the new Election Law is to eliminate "irregular" elements.

The need to produce food interferes with Russification plans. Spring farming delays basic construction and Marriage Law implementation. A shortage of rural enthusiasm is apparent in reports that Yenan farmers have deserted for the cities, abandoning their farms and the ambitious new highway project. Southwest farmers are accused of ignoring instructions, while Northwest minority groups are promised postponement of land reform programs in order to "promote racial harmony." Even State Farm managers are charged with neglect.

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